

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Independent schools welcome legislation to waive very remote teacher student debt

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) today welcomed the introduction of legislation to waive the HELP debt for teachers who worked at very remote schools.

ISCA's Executive Director, Barry Walleth, said that, "ISCA congratulates the Government on this initiative that will help to improve the outcomes for very remote students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, by supporting existing and future teachers to spend more time in very remote schools."

The Independent sector currently has 21 schools in very remote locations across the country, with close to 1,400 students of which over 1,000 are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Mr Walleth added that, "We welcome the waiving of up to five years of student debt as a positive and strong incentive to teachers to work for meaningful periods in very remote schools and communities. Greater continuity of teaching staff has the potential to be of great benefit to very remote students."

The program will remove up to five years' worth of HELP debt from students who spend at least four years working in very remote education settings. It will also assist more than 3,500 educators in very remote settings annually by removing indexation on their HELP debt.

ENDS

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